

The Children's Newspaper, Week Ending February 4, 1956

NATIONAL HANDWRITING TEST—See page 3

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1924, February 4, 1956



Cinderella's sisters

Two British girls, Joyce Graeme and Brenda Hamlyn, were chosen to dance the parts of the Ugly Sisters in the Cinderella ballet by Prokofiev, at La Scala, Milan.

THREEPENNY PARKING

Motorists put more than three million threepenny pieces into Auckland's kerbside parking meters last year. Threepence is the fee charged by the council for parking a car for 30 minutes in the city's busy streets, which have over 1000 parking meters.

Other New Zealand cities have followed Auckland's lead, so that the Dominion's little coin with the crossed clubs is in great demand.

British motorists, often unable to find a parking place at all, would doubtless rejoice if they could get such facilities for threepence.

FOR ANTARCTIC APPETITES

New Zealand's Antarctic explorers will feed well. They are to take 930 lb. of dehydrated beef and mutton, 460 lb. of dehydrated mince, and a magnificent array of tinned meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables. In addition to all this, they will have special luxury hampers to be opened once a month as "morale boosters."

For their dogs there will be 9000 lb. of dehydrated meat and meat meal, which will be mixed on the spot with seal oil, vitamins, and tallow.

Appetites sharpened by the cold will do justice to it all.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD ON HER TOES

Heather Harrington, of Bury, is only four, but already she has proved to be a dancer of great promise.

After she had attended classes for only six months, it was decided to enter her for the Middleton Dancing Festival to gain experience. She won ten medals and three cups!

One of the cups was awarded for the visiting under-sevens competition, the second for local competitors under seven and the third for junior novices under ten. The ten medals consisted of three firsts, six seconds, and one third. Quite a wonderful record!

We shall doubtless be hearing of more awards in the near future, for Heather is equally good at ballet, national dances, and tap-dancing.

BOY FROM THE BUSH

Scrubcat and his great ambition

In Melbourne for a brief few weeks recently was Scrubcat, a bush boy from Tennant Creek, 2000 miles away in the centre of Australia's arid Northern Territory.

He arrived with 86 horses after ten weeks in the saddle. He and his master, horse-driver "Lofty" Canning, had driven the mob hundreds of miles from Wilcannia in the north-east of New South Wales.

Tough but gentle and quietly spoken, young Scrubcat is 17. He can neither read nor write, but he understands horses and cattle and is a master of the bush.

In an uncanny way, this boy with his dark hair crisp and long as the grass of the plains, can find his way through the thickest scrub with the instinct of a wild animal. That is why he is called Scrubcat. It is the only name he knows.

He has been an orphan since he was eight, and has rarely had a roof over his head. Even when his father was alive he slept in the covered bullock wagon used by his father in the outback.

Scrubcat's proudest possession is the saddle which was his father's. His other belongings—the "swag" he carries in a coarse wool bale bag—consist of two ancient pairs of trousers, a ragged khaki military jacket, two torn sweaters, and an old blue shirt.

His ambition—and he is confident he will achieve it in a few years' time—is to be a boss drover and take huge herds of cattle from Central Australia to the markets.

It is a job calling for years of experience in the saddle, a cool head, and a knowledge of all the watering-holes along the stock route. But it is a well-paid job, and a man's job.

THE DOLPHIN IS SO FRIENDLY

Opo likes to join the bathers

Many New Zealanders are hoping that a worthy successor has been found to Pelorus Jack, the famous dolphin which used to accompany ships in Cook Strait. The new friendly dolphin is one that has turned up to frolic among the bathers at the North Island holiday resort of Opononi, for it is summer now Down Under. He is about eight feet long and is called Opo, after the place where his antics have been delighting crowds of visitors.

He capers happily about among the bathers only a few feet from the shore, and one of his tricks is to throw up a floating bottle and catch it in his mouth. Recently a bold little boy climbed onto his back. Opo slowly rolled over to unseat him, then dived playfully among other swimmers. On another occasion, spotting a swimming spaniel, Opo dived under the surprised dog and gently tossed it in the air.

But what Opo most enjoys is

having his back scratched with an oar. This is done from a dinghy, generally by a local hotel-keeper who has appointed himself the dolphin's unofficial guardian.

The Hokianga Harbour Board—Opononi is near the harbour entrance—have asked the New Zealand Government to declare Opo a protected "fish," which was done for Pelorus Jack years ago.

But Pelorus Jack always preferred ships to bathers. When one appeared on his "beat" he would dash to join it and accompany it for several miles, darting from one side of the bow to the other, and often rubbing himself against the vessel's hull. For 23 years, until his disappearance in 1914, he was well known to the sailors of many nations. In 1954 a group of New Zealand animal-lovers collected money for a memorial to him.

Now another of his kind has appeared, and we shall hope with the people of Opononi that Opo has come to stay.

OLD COMRADES IN ARMS

Two men who soldiered together in the South African War have just been reunited after 53 years; they found themselves in adjacent beds in the Skipton General Hospital, Yorkshire.

Mr. Fred Dacre, of Skipton, and Mr. William Edmund Brown, of Earby, were together for 16 months in South Africa, serving as privates in the 2nd Volunteer Duke of Wellington's Regiment. Three other old Army comrades have been to see them in hospital.

SAVING THE SHEEP FROM EAGLES

Eagles frequently swoop down on sheep stations in Australia and carry off young lambs. To combat this menace, which costs sheep farmers many thousands of pounds of valuable stock annually, the owners of Bundoran sheep station in Queensland use an Auster aircraft to chase the marauders and shoot them down.

Skilled piloting and good marksmanship have resulted in a bag of 300 eagles in less than a year.

SIR ANTHONY PLANS TO FIGHT INFLATION

Call for more young scientists

Parliament's return from the Christmas recess is perhaps the most important political event since the general election of last May. Our Press Gallery Correspondent here discusses the reasons for this—reasons that were outlined in the Prime Minister's speech.

THE Government, strengthened by the recent changes, are entering a decisive phase. For the first nine months of this long first session they have been cautiously feeling their way; now they can forge ahead.

Their blueprint is the great speech made by Sir Anthony Eden at Bradford a few days before the return of Parliament. In this he confirmed that Britain's greatest enemy at home is inflation—the rise in costs and prices which makes it increasingly hard to sell our exports to customers abroad.

One way to tackle this is to cut spending on public services. Such spending, unless kept within bounds, increases the burden on the Budget and creates high taxation, which in turn causes the price of goods to rise.

RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES

The Prime Minister announced a fresh phase of the campaign, started in 1951, to cut Government staffs. These are to be reduced by another 10,000 to 15,000—which is some contribution to the solution of this problem.

Another way to tackle inflation is to stop what are called restrictive practices—on both sides of the industry. Here again the Government means to set an example, and a formidable one which will sound a keynote for the rest of the work of this Parliament.

The new Monopolies Bill, to set up a tribunal to deal with the worst types of monopoly practices on the employing side of industry, is really designed to stop certain industries from price-fixing to the disadvantage of the community.

In turn, as Sir Anthony indicated, the Government might reasonably expect the trade union side of industry to abolish some of their worst restrictive practices at a time when certain vital industries are finding it impossible to get the labour they need.

NEW EXPORTS

It all boils down to a question of what "full employment" means. If two or three men are hired to do a job which could well be done by one man, and other men, by "working to rule," slow down production, can it be said that these help to maintain full employment?

The effect of such practices is to keep up the prices of our exports, in an increasingly competitive world. And if we cannot sell more exports we shall sooner or later have to face a lower living standard—and perhaps real want, too.

A third way to fight inflation is to sell a range of exports with which other countries cannot compete—to use our skill to acquire atomic power for industry more

speedily than any other country.

Perhaps the most important part of the Premier's speech dealt with something of vital interest to young people. This was a scheme—to be outlined in a White Paper—to produce more scientists, engineers, and technicians. His words are worth recalling:

"You will see what a harvest of talent waits to be gathered when I tell you that only one boy in four leaving school goes to any kind of technical college."

MORE TECHNICAL TRAINING

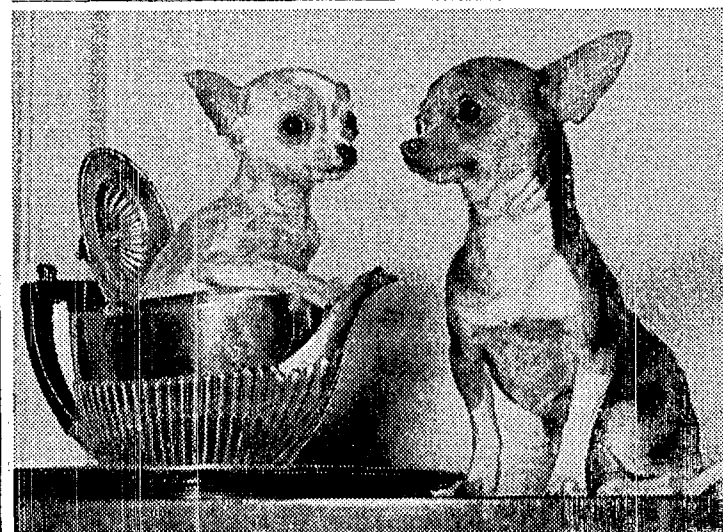
But facilities for technical education are inadequate and are to be improved, for Britain is falling behind Russia, as Sir Anthony pointed out at Bournemouth last October, in the race to train technicians.

Under the new scheme an increasing share of young school-leavers will be taken by the technical colleges. There will be full-time or part-time courses for the boy of 15 and advanced studies for the man who spends six months in the factory and six months in the college.

THE GREAT AIM

"The aim we set before the country," said the Premier, "is to build a high road that runs from school to the highest positions in industry and commerce; to make it possible for every boy and girl to join that road at the point which suits them best, and to travel on it as far as their talents and perseverance will take them."

These problems affect our economic strength. Our economic strength affects our ability to maintain our peaceful influence in world affairs. These are the problems which will dominate this Parliament.



As small as can be

These Chihuahuas (pronounced She-wha-whas) belong to one of the smallest breeds of dogs in the world—even small enough to fit into a teapot

Girl rescues horse

An astonishing act of courage has won 17-year-old Gloria Pooley the R.S.P.C.A.'s Silver Gallantry Medal. Gloria, a groom in some stables at Bollington, Cheshire, was leading three riders along a canal bank when one of the horses slipped and fell in.

The terrified animal swam upstream, ignoring her cries to come to the bank. Then, fearing that he would become exhausted and drown, Gloria dived in fully dressed, grabbed the bridle, and led him to the bank. Still frightened, he broke away and again she swam after him, this time managing to drag him out.

Though cold and exhausted, Gloria returned to the stables and helped to clean the horse. Then she herself had to be given medical treatment for shock and exposure.

Truly a moving story of devotion to duty as well as of courage.

BOY'S RIDE ON FIRE ENGINE

A nine-year-old boy, Alan Ridings, rode in the front seat of a fire engine the other day at Hyde, Cheshire, to direct the driver. Alan had seen smoke coming from a house but the firemen found it was merely smoke that had been blown back down the chimney.

It was a false alarm, but Alan was duly thanked, and into the fire station log-book went the entry: "Called out with good intent."

SEEKING ATOMIC POWER FOR AIRCRAFT

Last week we mentioned that American aircraft companies were studying plans for atomic-powered planes. Now it is revealed that British atom scientists are also hard at work developing nuclear power for aircraft and ships.

It is considered likely that the first British aircraft to be fitted with experimental reactors will be one of the giant Princess flying-boats, three of which are now in storage at Cowes, Isle of Wight.

News from Everywhere

Some £3,000,000,000 was spent on advertising in the U.S. last year—a sum equal to about £20 for everybody in the whole land.

COST OF FOG

Three days of fog early last month are estimated to have cost British European Airways £25,000.

Lady with a serpent



This strange instrument, called a serpent, dates back to the 17th century. Made from wood covered with leather, it was often used to accompany church choirs. The instrument forms part of a collection displayed in the museum at Worthing, Sussex.

STOWAWAYS

About 50 lizards were found by Hartlepool dockers in the hold of a German ship unloading scrap metal from Venezuela. They were iguanas, about two feet long.

Sherpa Tenzing is to lead a party of Sherpas on an expedition into the Everest region in search of the "Abominable Snowman."

Sheffield's 100,000th telephone has been installed in the Lord Mayor's parlour in the Town Hall. It is of ivory.

The Queen has given £50 to the Cleveland Bay Horse Society of Great Britain which supplies horses for the Royal Mews.

51 YEARS UNDERGROUND

Mr. B. Gormley, 65, of Maltby, retired recently after 51 years of work at the coal face.

The deepest well in Britain, about 7500 feet, is being bored at Fordon, near Bridlington, in a search for natural gas.

Latest figures show that Britons are the world's best customers of the cinema. On average, every person visits the cinema 25 times a year.

BOTTLE EXPRESS

Clive Clark, ten, of Bridlington, threw a bottle with a message into the sea and had an answer from a Danish seaman within a month.

An underground sea at Ostrava, in north-east Czechoslovakia, is to be pumped dry because it is thought that beneath it are huge deposits of coal.

Here's
a tip,
Children!

A new hot
cereal for
breakfast

Ask your mother
for
creamed

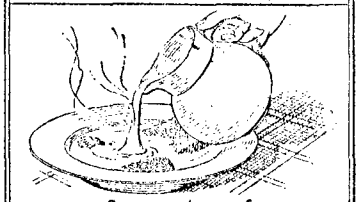
Weetabix

It's delicious—
you'll thoroughly enjoy it

THIS IS HOW IT'S MADE



Take two biscuits from a packet of Weetabix—



Pour on plenty of steaming hot milk—



Stir thoroughly with sugar to taste

SEND THIS COUPON FOR FREE SAMPLE

We shall be glad to send you a free sample of delicious Weetabix, together with a recipe leaflet which your mother will be pleased to have. Just fill in this coupon and post it in an unsealed r.d. stamped envelope to Weetabix Ltd., Dept. RR100L, Burton Latimer, Nr. Kettering, Northants.

Name.....
Address.....
Town..... County.....





Happy puppy

A bone this size is what Sheba, the boxer puppy, really likes. It lasts her such a nice long time.

TO HELP THE DOCTOR

An all-night medical service has been started to relieve family doctors in West London. Doctors subscribe to the service, which is non-profit-making, and all their calls between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. are sent to the Fulham headquarters of the service. There, four duty doctors and radio cars wait to answer the calls.

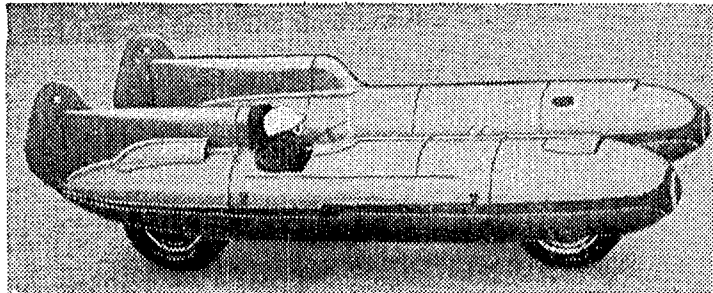
The doctors at present working on the night scheme are post-graduate medical students. They do teaching or research at London hospitals in the day, and the night service provides further experience, as well as giving service when it is most needed.

BRAVE LADS

The Cornwell Scout Badge has been awarded to 14-year-old Barry Gotts, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, for "his high standard of character and devotion to duty under great suffering."

A disease of the spine obliged him to wear a metal spinal support which hampered his movements and has only recently been removed. In spite of his handicap he joined his local Scout Group and his perseverance and punctuality have been outstanding.

Another notably brave Scout of the same age is Andrew Wightman of Edinburgh, who has been awarded the Gilt Cross for diving fully-clad into Granton Harbour to rescue an eleven-year-old boy.



Italian style

This strange double-bodied racing car has recently been undergoing trials in Italy. Powered by a supercharged Maserati engine, it is claimed to have a speed of nearly 200 m.p.h.

FOR SCHOOL ACTORS

Many boys and girls today are keen amateur actors, and in London their activities are highly organised.

The London Schools Drama Association has just issued the first number of Broadsheet which describes the work of 13 local associations to which 400 schools are affiliated. There are also articles on drama in primary and secondary schools, and on organising a festival. The Honorary Editor, who invites contributions, is L. Sheridan, 135 Cricklade Avenue, London, S.W.2.

BOY PIANIST'S 14 CONCERTOS

Daniel Barenboim is only 13, but he is already an old hand on the concert platform. He has been playing the piano in public ever since he was seven, and he was not in the least perturbed the other night when he gave his first performance in London—at the Royal Festival Hall.

Rather small for his age, with dark hair and pale complexion, Daniel amazed the critics with his masterly rendering of one of Mozart's piano concertos. It seemed effortless, but Daniel, like Mozart himself, is a prodigy. Already he knows 200 piano solos and 14 concertos by heart.

This gifted lad, born in Buenos Aires, loves music for its own sake. He could earn huge sums by performing all the year round, but his parents, both music teachers, are determined that his career shall not be jeopardised. Until recently Daniel gave only a few concerts during two months of the year. Now the period is being extended to three months, but at all times his training and education are proceeding carefully, according to plan.

ALL ON HIS OWN

Private Bill Sutherland of the Royal Army Pay Corps has had a very special flight. He was the only passenger in a 54-seater BOAC Argonaut liner when he was flown from Africa to London.

He was on 28 days' leave from Tripoli and certainly got good value for the £43 8s. fare which he had been saving up so that he could spend his leave with his people in Edinburgh.

Private Sutherland was offered the chance of a seat in the plane when it was returning to London without passengers.

AIRLINERS AT A GLANCE

It is a proud moment for a boy looking on at London Airport when he can rattle off to his friends: "That plane is N65020, a Lockheed Model L.1049B Super Constellation..."

All who envy his knowledge can now hope to vie with him by obtaining a new half-crown booklet called Know Your Airliners. It is a handsome production, with coloured pictures of 28 different airliners, plus descriptions and recognition silhouettes.

If you are thinking of visiting an airport to watch the planes, this is the book to study first. It has been published for Shell-Mex by Perry Colour Books and Educational Productions, and can be bought at any bookseller's.

BY VISCOUNT TO MOSCOW

Viscount propjet airliners will be the first British civil aircraft of post-war design to fly to Moscow.

The aircraft will be flown to the Soviet capital by Air Austria, who have recently announced an order for four Viscount V.803s.

Altogether 274 Viscounts have now been ordered by 24 airlines.

The CN National Handwriting Test of 1956 now open!

1068 Prizes Value £500 to be Won . . . Three Age Groups

APPLICATIONS to enter pupils for the latest CN National Handwriting Test—the sixth of these great competitions to be held by CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER—are pouring in, and Entry Forms are being despatched as quickly as possible.

As already explained, the Test is open to all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in Great Britain, all Ireland, and the Channel Islands who are under 17, and CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER is inviting schools and teachers to co-operate.

Entrants have only to copy the Test Passage (given on the special Entry Form), a short paragraph on the subject of Road Safety, in the writing style taught in their schools. The Entry Forms will be issued only through schools, and Prizes totalling £500 in value are to be awarded for the best entries.

To give everyone an equal chance, the Test is divided into THREE AGE GROUPS, with prizes in each for both pupils and schools. You can thus win for your school as well as yourself in this great competition for 1068 prizes! Here is the complete prize list:

Group A	For Pupils under 9	Group B	Pupils of 9 to under 12	Group C	Pupils of 12 to under 17
FIRST PRIZES		FIRST PRIZES		FIRST PRIZES	
To the School	£25	To the School	£25	To the School	£25
Prize-winning Pupil ..	£5	Prize-winning Pupil ..	£5	Prize-winning Pupil ..	£5
SECOND PRIZES		SECOND PRIZES		SECOND PRIZES	
To the School	£10	To the School	£10	To the School	£10
To the Pupil	£3	To the Pupil	£3	To the Pupil	£3
THIRD PRIZES		THIRD PRIZES		THIRD PRIZES	
To the School	£5	To the School	£5	To the School	£5
To the Pupil	£2	To the Pupil	£2	To the Pupil	£2

50 Special Sports Prizes

Cricket-bats, Tennis-rackets, Footballs, Netballs, Hockey-sticks, Boxing-gloves, etc., at the winners' choice.

1000 Fountain-pens

Consolation prizes consisting of special "exchange point" pens each Autographed with the winner's name.

10,000 Awards of Merit

Certificates for the best entry from each school not represented in the prize list;

If you would like to win prizes for both yourself and your school, please show this announcement to your Teacher, and (unless the school has already applied) ask him or her kindly to complete this coupon and send it to C.N. Entries in the Test must be completed on the proper Entry Form.

The Test may be done in school or at home, as decided by the Teacher, who is asked to sign it on completion. There is NO entry fee—but when returned, every pupil's attempt must have affixed

to it one of the Tokens (marked C.N. Writing Test 1956) now appearing in every copy of CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER. You will find one at the foot of the back page of this issue.

The Closing Date for entries is Wednesday, March 28. These, when completed, are to be sent in accordance with the rules, also given in the Entry Form. (N.B.—It is regretted that the Test cannot be extended to schools outside Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Irish Republic.)

Note to Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses

The Entry Form contains the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort, and the full rules. It is issued only to schools on request. Teachers are asked kindly to assess the number of forms required as closely as possible, and to send for them on this coupon. The supply will then be sent free and post free, to be handed out at school. (If desired, a specimen Entry Form will be sent before the full request is made.) Last date for form applications is February 29.

To CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER, Competition Dept., C.N. 3, Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Please send me (free and post free) _____ copies of the C.N. National Handwriting Test of 1956 Entry Form for my pupils.

PRINCIPAL/FORM-MASTER or MISTRESS

School _____

School Address: _____

This coupon may be posted under 1½d. stamp if sent unsealed

Peter Pan meets Peter Pan

Over 50 years ago Barrie's Peter Pan was first produced in London. One of the most famous actresses to play Peter was Pauline Chase. She recently went along to the Scala Theatre in London with her grandson to meet this year's Peter, played by Peggy Cummins.



4
RADIO AND TVDO YOU WANT TO BE AN
AIR STEWARDESS?TELEVISION GOES
TRAWLING

THE BBC brings its ship-to-shore television system into action on Saturday night to give viewers a programme about the Lowestoft fishing industry. So complicated are the arrangements that the Lowestoft Lady, one of the port's latest trawlers, has been chartered for a week for the rehearsals. A TV mobile unit has been fitted on board, transmitting to a temporary receiving station at Lowestoft.

Viewers will be taken to sea, so let us hope the water will be smooth. On board the Lowestoft Lady they will see a catch being hauled in. It is hoped that Skipper Jack Reader will be able to speak over the radio-telephone to his wife, who will be televised by other cameras on land.

On land, too, will be Robert Beatty, seen talking to local fishermen in the Rising Sun Inn, famous for its fine collection of models of Lowestoft fishing boats.

Gillian has a motor
scooter

ALTHOUGH dark-haired Gillian Sterret, of Hampstead, London, is making her BBC Television debut next Tuesday in Scoop for Carola, in Children's TV, she is already experienced in commercial TV. She was filmed as May Queen in the Robin Hood series and will be seen this month in the part of a young sculptress in ATV's Sunday Afternoon.



Gillian Sterret

As Carola she plays a girl reporter on a country newspaper thoroughly bored with flower shows, weddings, and other unexciting events. Then her young sister Pauline, anxious to help, makes real news for her by involving an antique dealer in what looks like theft. This leads to awful trouble which has its funny side, too.

Producer Dorothea Brooking tells me that Gillian Sterret fits the part splendidly because she owns a motor scooter. She was filmed on the machine while supposed to be dashing off after the story.

The play, written by Barbara Willard, has a part as young reporter for Michael Hall, son of



Entertaining a young passenger—just one of the duties of an air stewardess

FOR the adventurous girl who doesn't mind hard work, what better job could there be than that of air stewardess? In Children's Hour on Saturday, I Want To Be... will give a close-up story of an air stewardess's life.

Alastair Dunnott, who wrote the script and made special recordings, tells me he flew from London to Malta in a BEA Elizabethan. What struck him most about Miss Jeannette Seery, stewardess on the trip, was that she was on her feet all the time!

When she was not getting meals, amusing the children, supplying drinks, and generally putting passengers at their ease, she was pointing out landmarks en route like the Eiffel Tower and the Alps. Dunnott used his tape recorder on

the actual flight and also in the BEA training school at London Airport.

Nearly 200 girls in different parts of the country apply for the job every week. First they are seen by selection boards near their own district, and likely candidates are sent for a final interview to BEA headquarters in London. Only about two or three girls each week win the coveted position.

What are the main qualifications for this fascinating occupation? Alastair Dunnott discovered they were grace and personality, a strong constitution, and an equable temperament. "An air stewardess must never be ruffled." She must also be good at figures so as to calculate change quickly in almost any currency.

Transmitters on the
trains

I HEAR of a new use for VHF, which the BBC are using so successfully to solve the interference problem. In Gold Coast Colony tiny VHF transmitters have been fitted on diesel-electric locomotives plying between the new harbour at Tema, near Accra, and the Volta River hydro-electric scheme.

The drivers can talk to each other all along the route, arranging timetables and passing points, and thus avoiding collisions. In fact, each engine thus becomes a kind of miniature broadcasting station.

GUIDE BOOK FOR
TREASURE HUNTERS

Hunting for pirates' buried treasure has become quite a popular pastime in the United States. Everybody is doing it. So to keep up with the demand for maps and information about out-of-the-way islands, the Library of Congress in Washington has produced a special book.

It gives maps and details of all that is known of some 250 hidden hoards, and may be consulted by any treasure-hunter for a small

The Things They Say!

A RADIO quiz game new to this country is to be tried out in Children's Hour on February 9. Called The Things They Say, it is coming from the West Region studios in Bristol.

Programme Director Desmond Hawkins said the other day that the game was discovered by Producer Stuart Wyton on a recent visit to Australia, where it is highly popular.

In the new game a question is thrown at a group of children rather like fish at the seals in the Zoo. They have to scramble for it and talk about it in quick-fire time.

ERNEST THOMSON

ANGLERS IN THE
CITY OF STEEL

Sheffield is famous for angling as well as steel. It is estimated that there are 30,000 keen fishermen in the city, and for this reason it has been selected as the site of Britain's first National Angling Show to be held this year from May 3 to 5.

The latest designs in tackle will be on view by exhibitors from all over the country and there will also be an exhibition of tropical

IT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

Death of Henry
the Eighth

JANUARY 29, 1547. WESTMINSTER—One hour after midnight last night King Henry VIII of England, Defender of the Faith, died in his Palace of Westminster.

He is succeeded on the Throne

by his only surviving son, the nine-year-old Prince Edward, who now becomes King Edward VI, and in his will King Henry took

the precaution of naming the members of the Council of Regency who will govern the country during the boyhood of the young king.



Henry VIII

During the past few weeks, as King Henry's health failed, there have been fears that others might try to seize the Throne; only eight days ago Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, the poet, was beheaded for his alleged part in such a conspiracy.

Since November last, King Henry attended councils of his Ministers in a wheeled chair.

Yesterday, when he realised his end was near, he asked his friend and devoted aide, Sir Anthony Denny, to send for Archbishop Cranmer. The message did not reach the Archbishop until late

and when he arrived the dying King was unable to speak.

"Give me some token of your trust in Christ," said the Archbishop and the King clasped his hand, and, soon afterwards, died.

His reign of 37 years has seen tremendous changes in the life of England. Chief among them has been the abolishing of the supremacy of the Church of Rome in this country and the suppression of the monasteries.

He was a talented sovereign. When he was nine he impressed everyone by writing a note at dinner asking the great Dr. Erasmus—then visiting the court—to send him some production of his pen.

He was 18 when he came to the Throne on the death of his father, King Henry VII, and was described as the most handsome Prince in Europe. He was tall, well built, with a ruddy face and blue-grey eyes. He was something of an athlete and a great lover of tennis.

He has been married six times, and next in succession to the Throne are the 31-year-old Princess Mary, daughter of his first wife, Queen Catherine, and the 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the second wife, Queen Anne.

Merchants in Parliament

JANUARY 30, 1265. LONDON—A Parliament more representative of the people than any ever before assembled in this country met here today.

The Parliament was summoned in the King's name by writs issued last month by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and this is the Earl's latest attempt to reform the government of the country.

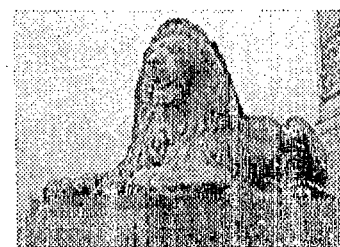
The "Members of Parliament" meeting today include 120 lords, 23 lay barons, and two knights from every shire—a customary representation. But what makes

this Parliament different from its predecessors is that it also includes two citizens from every borough in England. So, for the first time, merchants and traders—as well as noblemen—now have a voice in the country's affairs.

De Montfort has campaigned for some time for a reform of government. The campaign developed into civil war two years ago, but the recent defeat of King Henry's reactionary supporters and the capture of the King at Lewes has established the Earl as virtual ruler of the country.

The lions at last

JANUARY 31, 1867. LONDON—At last the lions have made their appearance! More than 24 years since Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square was completed its four lions were revealed in position at the base today.



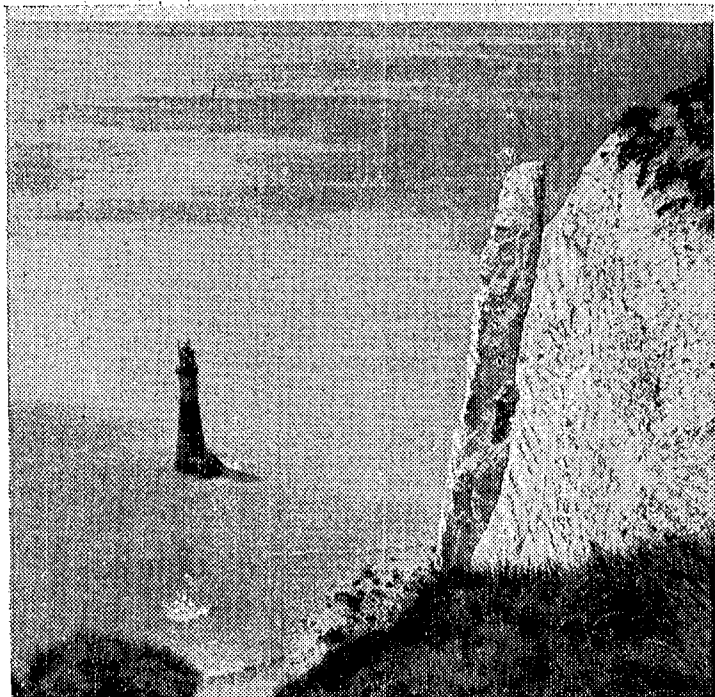
Since their arrival on the site they have been covered with sheets, but this afternoon they were uncovered in the presence of a large number of onlookers.

Commissioner of Works, arrived for the event he was received by the sculptor of the lions, the famous artist, Sir Edwin Landseer. On a signal from Lord John the covers were stripped off and the great lions of Trafalgar Square were revealed to the public gaze for the first time.

It was more than eight years ago that Sir Edwin was given the commission to carve four lions for £3000, and during recent years, owing to fears for the artist's health, there were increasing doubts whether the Landseer lions would ever reach Trafalgar Square.

Although Sir Edwin made many sketches at zoos of walking and standing lions, he has decided that his four lions should all be lying

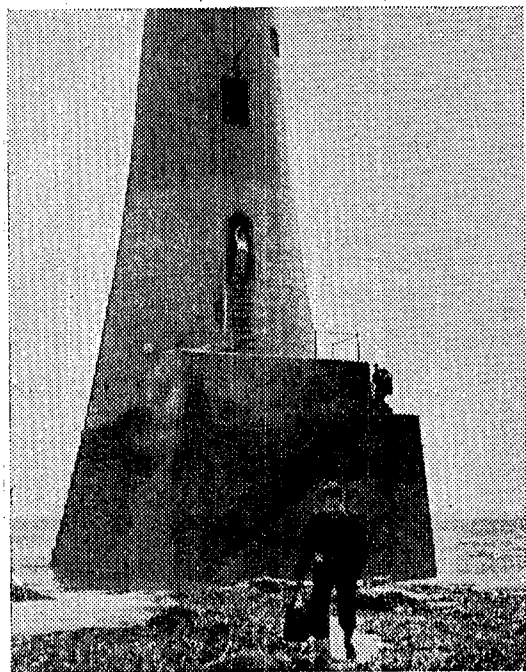
ON DUTY BELOW BEACHY HEAD



Beachy Head lighthouse as we see it from the cliffs



Standing on his balcony, Skipper William James regularly scans the shore through his telescope



Going ashore at low tide to buy provisions

COUNTLESS thousands of holiday-makers have stood on the loftiest headland on England's south coast, gazing down at the lighthouse more than 500 feet below. And many of them must have wondered what it must be like to live in that slender beacon tower, which has withstood the worst furies of Channel gales for more than half a century.

The keepers' job is a lonely one, though the men at Beachy Head are more fortunate than those at most lighthouses, for at low tide they can walk ashore into Eastbourne. Still, for most of their spell of duty, they are "cribbed, cabined, and confined" as they keep vigil in their isolated tower on the rocks.

But they are far too busy to feel the lack of neighbours. They are the willing slaves of a lamp—a great lamp to which many sailors owe their lives. It develops 274,000 candle-power, throwing a beam visible 16 miles out at sea,

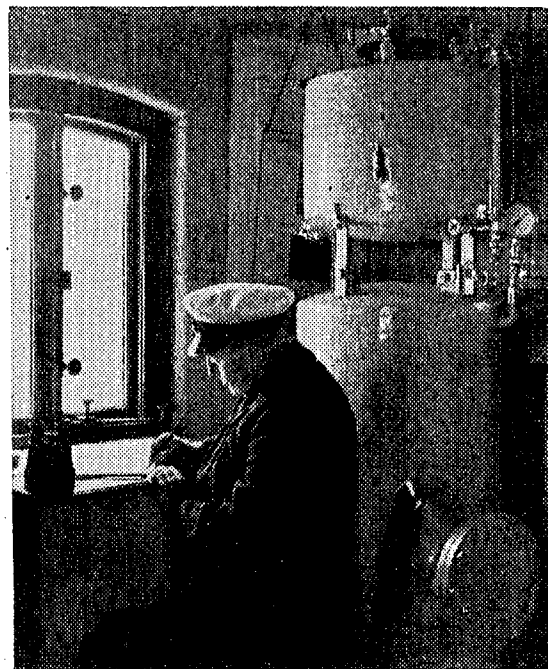
and maintaining it at maximum power means a great deal of cleaning and polishing.

Fog brings extra work for these guardians of seamen's lives. Detonators and maroons must be fired to warn ships from straying too close to the shore.

The keepers must also do all their own domestic chores. They have to cook their own meals; they themselves have to clean, mend, and wash their clothes. But it is all in the day's work to them; they are handymen.

In their spare time they often work at such handicrafts as rug-making. They also spend some time fishing—with a kite. This has a line and hook attached, and the fisherman watches for a "bite" through his binoculars.

Beachy Head lighthouse took three years to build, and was finished in 1902. It is 142 feet high and contains 3960 tons of Cornish granite. Stout building, and men of stout heart within!



Breakfast over, the log must be brought up to date



Kite-fishing is one way to supplement the stores



The Skipper carves the joint for three hungry men



A final check on the light before night falls

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars . London . EC4
FEBRUARY 4 1956

FAREWELL, SKIPPER!

EVERYONE has been sorry to learn that Len Hutton has decided to retire lest through ill health he should "let the side down."

The record books will testify to the great achievements of this captain of England. They will not record

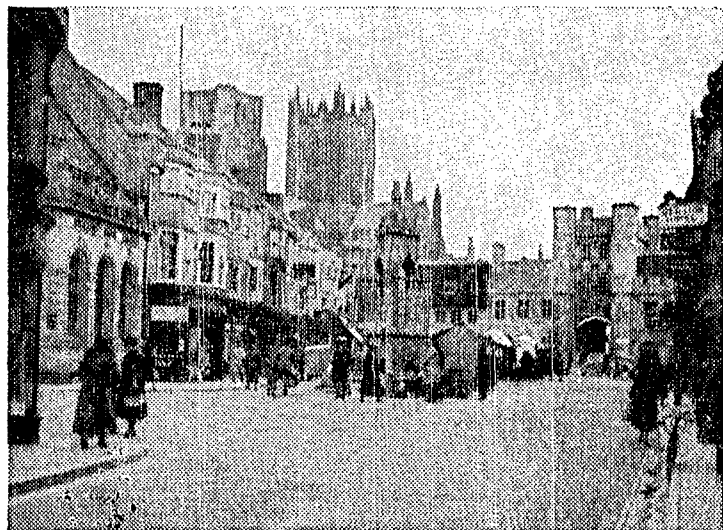


the fact that his sportsmanship matched his prowess.

There has perhaps been no finer tribute to this great son of Yorkshire than one that came from Lancashire. "His own integrity and personal modesty and Yorkshire humour," wrote The Manchester Guardian, "shone through the chain mail which he put on for the battle, and won him friends as well as matches."

Len Hutton began his first-class career with a duck and was greeted by team-mate Maurice Leyland with the words: "Never mind, lad. You've started at the bottom."

No one will deny that he was at the top when he eventually declared his own innings closed.



OUR HOMELAND

The little market at Wells, in Somerset

The Editor's Table

NEW EVERY YEAR

ATOMIC aids to medicine have revealed the astonishing fact that we are provided with an almost completely new body every year!

Dr. Paul C. Aebersold, Director of the Isotopes Division of the U.S.A. Atomic Energy Commission, stated recently that one of the most astonishing revelations made by the use of radioactive isotopes is that the human body is renewed to an extent of 98 per cent every year.

"Medical men," said Dr. Aebersold, "used to think of the human body as an engine that takes in food, air, and water, mainly as food to keep running on, and that only a small part of these materials was thought to go for replacement."

Atomic investigations have now proved that the "turnover" of various elements in the body is rapid and complete. In a week or two, for instance, almost half the sodium atoms will be replaced by other sodium atoms, and similar replacements are made of the hydrocarbon and phosphorus elements in our make-up. And so the wonderful process goes on.

Think on These Things

ST. PAUL, writing to the small group of Christians at the seaport of Corinth, reminds them that, in the eyes of the world, they are not very important people.

The first Christians were indeed often quite ordinary and humble people. Yet within three centuries they won the great Roman Empire for Jesus.

We cannot all be clever and distinguished. But we must never forget that, whatever others may think of us, God loves us and thinks us important, so important that Christ died for us.

TO THE FOLD

ALL things that morning has scattered with fingers of gold,

All things thou bringest, oh evening, at length to the fold.

Sappho

Too young for the Infantry

EVERY soldier is said to carry a field-marshal's baton in his haversack; there can be few who have carried a baby in it, as a young Italian serviceman did recently.

It seems that he was kissing his two-month-old son before leaving to join his regiment when the train suddenly moved off, allowing him no time to hand the little one back to his wife.

So at the end of his journey he reported at the barracks complete with one baby in his haversack. What the sergeant-major said is not reported, but it must have been a desperate situation, until the next train arrived with the mother, anxious to end her bambino's brief army career.

Leaving the Big Top



After a life of making other people laugh, Mr. Percy Huxter of the Bertram Mills Circus is retiring at the end of the season. His circus life started in a team of comedy acrobats.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper, February 6, 1926

THE day when wireless will be supplied like water at the main, with as little trouble as turning on a tap, has been brought a step nearer by an invention promised by Mr. Alphonse Marconi, brother of the wireless genius.

It will do away with the battery and the accumulator.

The electric current which lights the house has plenty of power to spare for the valve set, but the electric food it supplies would burst the mechanism. Mr. Marconi's universal adapter will water down the current to the intensity needed by the wireless receiver.

SLEEP SOFTLY

SLEEP softly in this quiet room,
O thou, whoe'er thou art,
And let no mournful yesterdays
Disturb thy peaceful heart.

Nor let tomorrow scare thy rest
With dreams of coming ill;
Thy Maker is thy changeless friend,
His love surrounds thee still.

Forget thyself and all the world;
Put out each feverish light;
The stars are watching overhead,
Sleep softly then, good-night!

THEY SAY . . .

A BOY thinking about his future should seek work which is productive and fruitful, and not a mere juggling for coins.

The Bishop of Chichester

PANTOMIME is about the only art form in which you can really enjoy yourself.

Mr. Harry Secombe

IN this strangely confused and bewildered age the fundamental thing that is wrong with the world is that it has become organised round man instead of around God.

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead

SAUSAGES in 1881 were much better than they are now. I can just remember them.

The Lord Chief Justice

QUIZ CORNER

1. What are the names of the young of the following: seal, elephant, and hare?
2. What is coral, and where is it found?
3. How many teeth have we in our first or "milk" set, and how many in our second or "permanent" set?
4. Who was the first man to fly in an aeroplane?
5. How long is a metre?
6. To which group of islands do Majorca and Minorca belong?

Answers on page 12

Out and About

THE increasing daylight in February becomes very noticeable, along with the signs of growth everywhere. An old saying:

As the days lengthen
So the frosts strengthen

was probably due to anxiety about early buds and flowers which can easily be damaged by frosts.

Nowadays we are glad of mild and sunny spells in which to enjoy hours filled with promises of Spring. But the general idea used to be that we must pay later for good weather.

Old calendars are full of warnings about this. Yet Candlemas Day, on February 2, was associated with lights kept burning in the churches, and with the snowdrops that used to be called Fair Maids of February.

C. D. D.

JUST AN IDEA

As Socrates wrote: You may put poison in an earthen pitcher, and the pitcher be washed out, and none the worse. But you can take nothing into the soul that does not indelibly infect it, whether for good or for evil.

Next Week's Birthdays

February 5

Adlai Stevenson (1900). Democratic candidate in the American Presidential election of 1952. Trained as a lawyer, he has held a number of Government posts and was a U.S. delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1946 and 1947. He is a witty speaker and a serious thinker.



February 6

Cyril Garbett (1875-1955). Archbishop of York and previously Bishop of Southwark and then of Winchester. A great church administrator.

February 7

Earl of Harewood (1923). First cousin of the Queen. While a prisoner of war in 1944 he devoted a great deal of attention to music. Between 1950 and 1953 he edited the magazine Opera and was director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

February 8

Dame Edith Evans (1888). One of our most distinguished and delightful actresses. She toured with Ellen Terry and made a great reputation in plays of Bernard Shaw. Appeared in a number of films including The Importance of Being Earnest.

February 9

Anthony Hope (1863-1933). Romantic novelist. He was a lawyer and, one November day in 1893, was walking back to the Temple from the courts when the story of The Prisoner of Zenda began to unfold itself in his mind. He began to write the novel next morning.



February 10

Rt. Hon. Harold Macmillan (1894). Recently appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. Before that he was Foreign Secretary for a short time. Other offices he has held include that of Minister of Defence and of Minister of Housing.

February 11

Sir Sidney Abrahams (1885). Lawyer. A member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council since 1941. He twice represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games in the 100 metres and the long jump. He is a brother of Harold Abrahams, another great athlete, and of Sir Adolphe Abrahams, hon. medical officer to the British Olympic Athletics team.

THE MEN ON DUTY AT THE DOOR

Most of us like a little personal attention. How pleasant it is, for example, to have a door held open by a smiling and be-medalled Commissionaire. This is just a simple act of courtesy gladly performed, but far from being the only task which the members of the famous Corps of Commissionaires are called upon to do. In fact, fewer men have a wider variety of jobs.

Although primarily doormen and messengers, they are also to be seen at garden parties and sports meetings, marshalling big crowds as well as acting as security guards and car park attendants.



The badge of the Corps of Commissionaires

Whatever it is that these men are called upon to do it is done with the same spirit of willingness. But they are often taken for granted, and few people know of their origin.

In the famous London street called the Strand, and not far from the Adelphi Theatre, is a wall plaque which reads: Corps of Commissionaires. Founded 1859 by Captain Sir Edward Walter, K.C.B. Exchange Court Headquarters.

5000 MEMBERS

Below it is a passage leading to the impressive H.Q., now one of many dotted all over the country and serving more than 5000 members.

The Corps of Commissionaires is an organised, uniformed body of men controlled by a Board of Governors, managed by a Commandant, and guided by a set of rules and regulations. Enrolment is open to all men of exemplary character, except commissioned officers, who have served in the Regular Navy, Army, and Air Force.

Its object is to find suitable jobs for ex-Servicemen who are without a trade or profession. And when employment is found the

man is given a uniform, with his Corps number on the collar. In return for his services the Officers' Endowment Fund of the Corps receives, by mutual agreement, a yearly contribution from the employer.

A member of the Corps of Commissionaires on duty always attracts attention because of his smart black military-style uniform, the tunic with its black epaulets, the trousers with razor-edge crease, the shining boots, buttons, and cap badge with crossed sword and anchor enclosed in the Garter.

(All buttons are inscribed with the monogram *Virtute-et-Industria—By Virtue and by Industry*).

In 1859 the lot of the ex-Serviceman was hard. There were no facilities for his learning a trade while in the Services; nor, other than a small pension or gratuity, were there any benevolent funds or associations to give financial help, as there are today.

MARK OF DISTINCTION

Then Captain Sir Edward Walter, K.C.B., came to the rescue. He was sure he could get work for these men; moreover, if they were dressed in uniform it would serve as a mark of distinction and earn respect.

Some betrayed the trust he placed in them but his faith in the ex-Serviceman was unquenchable. He carried on single-handed, but the idea caught on, and with it came many applications for employment.

Helped by the members of his family, Sir Edward Walter bore the initial costs of this organisation, and not until 1864 did he appeal to the public for money. This was needed to form the Officers' Endowment Fund, from which he could pay for the engagement of officers to help in the fast-growing organisation. Thus was the Corps of Commissionaires established as we know it.

The civility, willingness and courtesy these ex-Servicemen put into their work make them one of the most popular uniformed bodies of the day. Everyone knows nowadays that a job done by a member of the Corps of Commissionaires is a job done well.

World's Fastest Land Vehicle

The distinction of being the world's fastest and most powerful land vehicle goes to a futuristic, rocket-propelled sled, now being used to test pilot escape systems in the United States.

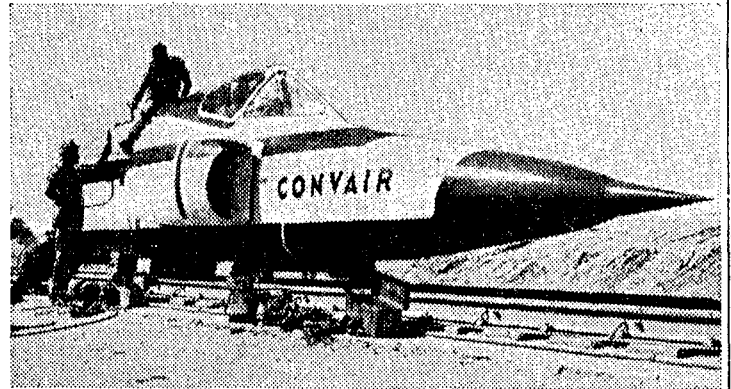
Basically the sled is the complete nose section of a Convair F-102A, which streaks down a 10,000-foot railway track, from start to finish, in ten seconds—less time, in fact, than it takes to read this paragraph.

Shortly after the sled is fired, the escape system is triggered. Within five seconds the canopy is jettisoned, a dummy pilot and seat are catapulted out of the cockpit, and the dummy is parachuted gently to Earth.

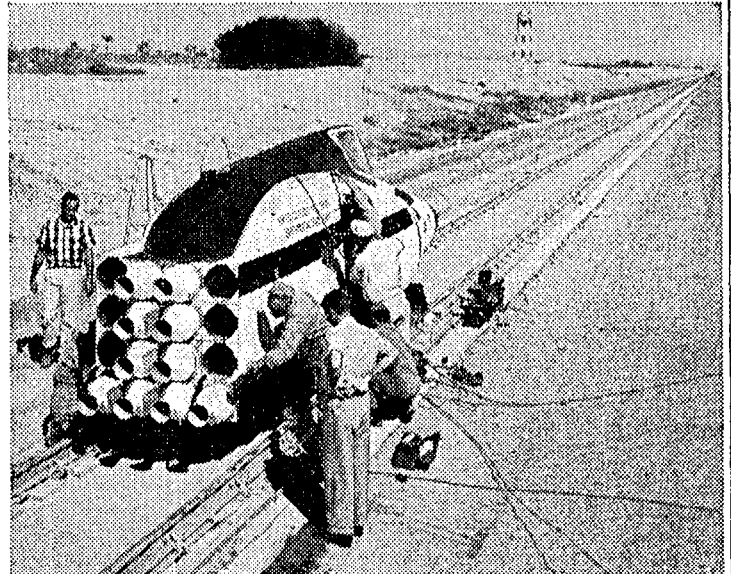
RELYING ON THE CAMERA

Before the sound of the motors can be heard by observers, the rockets have actually burned out—slightly more than two seconds after being fired. At the test speeds involved—up to 800 m.p.h.—engineers have to rely on motion picture cameras to record what happened while a run was in progress.

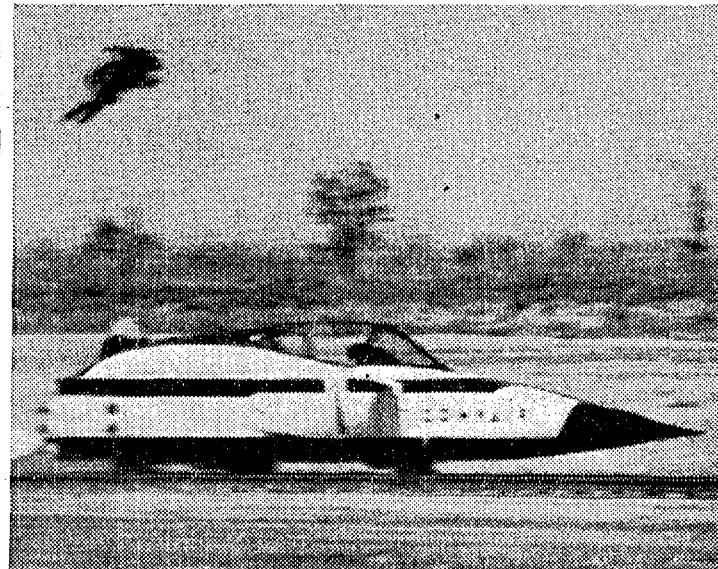
As the speed of aircraft has increased so has the danger to pilots forced to bale out. With the aid of the sled, dummies, and cameras, the scientists have been able to evolve an emergency system which will give pilots baling out at supersonic speeds a greater chance of survival than ever before.



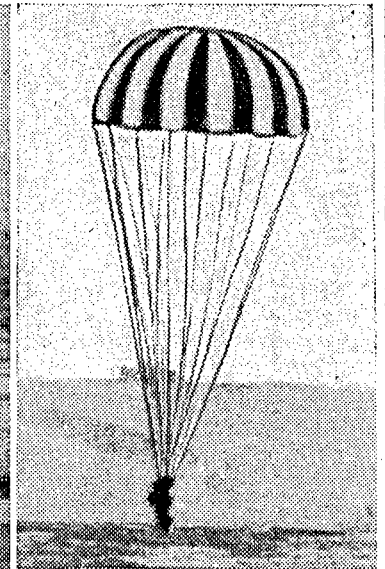
The needle nose of the sled points down the 10,000-foot track



The rockets which give the sled a speed of 800 m.p.h.



(Left). The dummy pilot and seat are catapulted into the air. (Right). Parachuting to Earth



STAMP ALBUM



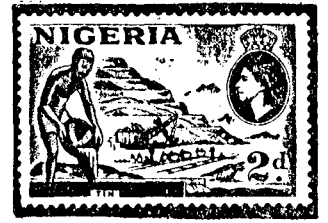
NIGERIA IN THE 20TH CENTURY

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY THE TERRITORIES OF LAGOS (INCLUDING THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE), SOUTHERN NIGERIA AND NORTHERN NIGERIA EACH ISSUED THEIR OWN STAMPS. IN 1906 LAGOS JOINED SOUTHERN NIGERIA AND IN 1914 ALL WERE AMALGAMATED TO FORM THE COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF NIGERIA.



NIGERIA
IN
PICTURES

IN 1935 A HANDSOME SET OF PICTORIALS WAS ISSUED. THEY ILLUSTRATE INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS THE TIMBER INDUSTRY SHOWN HERE, AND OTHER FEATURES OF INTEREST IN NIGERIA.



NIGERIA TO-DAY

THE CURRENT 2^D STAMP (SHOWN HERE) IS BEING SPECIALLY OVERPRINTED TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

NO WINGS, NO FEAR

There was excitement among naturalists a few years ago when the Notornis, or Takahe, a New Zealand flightless bird, was found, for it was thought to be extinct. Now the man who re-discovered the Notornis, Dr. G. B. Orbell, reports that the few survivors are becoming quite tame in their sanctuary of the Takahe Valley.

In appearance they are something like large moorhens. When Dr. Orbell was in the valley studying them some time ago he was surprised to see one standing in the doorway of the hut where he was lying on his bunk. He was even more surprised when it calmly walked in and had a good look round.

The same bird also turned up to watch supplies for the scientists being unloaded from an amphibian aircraft, and some of the birds will allow people to approach closer to them than an ordinary farmyard hen would.

Perhaps they are anxious not to be written off again as extinct. Happily there is little danger of that; for eight of their nests, five with chicks in them, have been observed, and 29 grown-up birds have been marked and released.

COBRAS 1s 6d A FOOT

Daring children in the Eastern Province of South Africa make extra pocket money each week by catching snakes for the Port Elizabeth snake park.

Some snakes are paid for by weight. Thus the rate for a non-poisonous snake is 3d. an ounce, but for the dangerous ringhals, second cousin to a rattler, 8d an ounce is paid. Cobras fetch 1s. 6d. a foot no matter what their length, but mole snakes only 1s. 3d. a foot.

Pythons are valued at from £1 to £4 each, depending on size, but the vicious mambas are worth £4 to £5 each.

The children trap the snakes with forked sticks and shake them into bags with a flick of the wrist.



Morris dancer

One of the Morris dancers taking part in the English Folk Dancing Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The clothes for these dances remind us that their origin is Moorish, a word which became altered in English to Morris.

NORFOLK ISLAND'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

The people of Norfolk Island, in the Pacific, are having a special celebration this year because 1956 is the centenary of their ancestors' arrival. Former residents, who have left to live in Australia and New Zealand, are expected to return to their birthplace for the festivities.

Norfolk Island has an area of only 13 square miles, and belongs to Australia. Lying just over 1000 miles E.N.E. of Sydney, it was discovered by Captain Cook in 1774. Convicts were afterwards taken there but were removed in 1856 when settlers were brought from Pitcairn Island, thousands of miles away. The newcomers were descendants of the celebrated Bounty Mutineers.

It seems strange that some 40 of them should have rejected the proposed new home and returned to Pitcairn. For Norfolk Island is a beautiful place. It has a delightful climate and a fertile soil in

which bananas, oranges, lemons, figs, passion-fruit all grow well.

The Pitcairn folk who remained established a settlement, and in 1882 they built a church with windows designed by a famous 19th-century artist, Burne-Jones, and made by his equally famous friend, William Morris. The organ was presented by a well-known novelist of the period, Charlotte Yonge. These remote islanders were not forgotten, for the missionaries saw to that.

Today the islanders number about a thousand. They are not cut off from the outside world as their grandfathers were; for Australians discovered the charms of Norfolk Island a good many years ago, and nowadays planes regularly bring many tourists.

But the local people stick to their local customs. One of these is that everyone must work for ten days a year on the island's roads or pay £1 a day instead.

LAGOS BESIDE A BLUE LAGOON

A CN correspondent just back from Nigeria sends us this account of Lagos, the capital of Nigeria, very much in the news at the moment because of the Queen's visit.

LAGOS, one of the most remarkable cities in Africa, has a story going back 500 years to the days of Portuguese enterprise along the West Coast of Africa. Round the house of the Chief of Lagos there used to be a scattered African village of thatched huts. The Chief and the Portuguese had a trade agreement and the trade was chiefly in slaves.

The lovely lagoon of Lagos, secluded and storm-free, was the haven from which scores of shiploads of African slaves made the tragic passage to the Americas. Today the blue lagoon is a fine harbour with an immense new quay for shipping.

To walk down the Marina is to see a splendid lagoon-side boulevard shaded by palm trees and with a breeze always blowing in from the open sea out there beyond the harbour bar. Here is the Cathedral and Government House, with a gleaming white frontage and wide lawns. Modern Lagos, with its 270,000 people, has skyscrapers, modern offices and hotels. But behind them is immemorial Africa.

NATIONAL COLOUR

The prevailing colour of Lagos seems to be indigo-blue, the national colour of the Yoruba people. They wear the Yoruba blue in long strips of home-woven cloth twisted round the body, and the women sometimes build up magnificent head-dresses of their native cloth. Lively, intelligent, and proud of their national traditions, Yoruba people usually greet distinguished visitors with loud hand-clapping. Cheers are thought to be undignified, although there may be a few shouts from some of the younger generation, who have caught the British habit.

Among the Nigerian leaders who are paying homage to the Queen is the Oba or Chief of Lagos, whose family have been ruling for over 200 years. His palace is composed of a series of paved courtyards. His Highness himself is a gracious, friendly man who was once a civil servant. He likes receiving visitors, and is usually dressed in cream-coloured robes, a gold braided blue turban, and silver and gold cloth slippers. His page stands near him with an orange umbrella.

In Lagos, and in all parts of Nigeria, the separate races get on well together. The famous Island Club in Lagos is one of the few mixed clubs in Africa, and any party there will always be composed of both Africans and Europeans. There is no colour bar and no colour prejudice.

MR AWOLOWO'S STORY

The African Prime Minister of the Western Region, Mr. Awolowo, told the CN correspondent his own story. He was born 46 years ago in a small Yoruba village, managed to get first to a mission school and from there at length he made his way to London and became a barrister at the Inner Temple. To sit in his home and hear him tell this wonderful story in quiet, cultivated English is to realise what a revolution he represents. His dark, smiling face and alert eyes behind his horn-rimmed spectacles are those of Africa, but he thinks as a European and his dreams for his people are for their modern advancement.

Mr. Awolowo, like many hundreds meeting the Queen in Lagos and Nigeria, is a man of two worlds and he is determined to make the best of both for the sake of Africa.

THE LION OF ST MARK—new picture-version of G. A. Henty's thrilling story (6)



Taken by surprise when Francis and his men attacked them, the Genoese boarders of Admiral Pisan's flagship surrendered. When Francis returned to Venice, he found himself a popular hero, but the modest lad disliked the fuss and asked his patron, Signor Polani, to send him to sea again. It was arranged that he should take letters to the merchant's daughters, who were staying on the island of Corfu.



Francis and his faithful servant, another boy named Giuseppe, departed in an open galley, the Maxos. On the way to Corfu they were pursued by a Moorish pirate. The captain of the Maxos handed the helm over to Francis and helped the oarsmen. But the other vessel soon overtook them. "We have no cargo, only letters," said the captain, but one of the pirates ordered him and his crew to come on board their craft.



There, to his horror, Francis found that the pirates' leader was Ruggiero Moccenigo, the villain whose schemes to marry one of Polani's daughters by force he had thwarted in Venice. The man's eyes gleamed with savage pleasure as he read the letters, and then stared long at Francis. "Thank heaven my vengeance has come at last!" he exclaimed, and ordered Francis to be taken below and put in irons.



The prisoners were taken to a small island off the coast of Tunis, and there all except Francis were led away to be sold as slaves. Francis tried to cheer them up by saying that Signor Polani would spare no efforts to ransom them. But poor Giuseppe wept bitterly as he was dragged away, begging to be allowed to share his young master's fate. Francis, by himself now, was locked in a small hut.

What evil schemes is Ruggiero hatching now? See next week's instalment

BLUE JOHN SECRET

by Garry Hogg

My sister Nessa and I, with our guardian, Bruce, have arrived in Derbyshire to stay with friends of Bruce's, Mr. and Mrs. Brownlow and their son John. John tells us that something valuable is buried in Bleakshaw Cavern and we set off to investigate.

5. Pick and Crowbar

It was certainly a lot more than three miles to Bleakshaw Cavern! The moor got rougher and rougher, the slopes steeper up and down; we wound about till I had completely lost my sense of direction or, at least, would have done if I had not had my trusty compass with me.

John never hesitated, though, and it was obvious that he must have come this way many, many times.

After the first mile, though, he slowed down. "There is a good stretch now," he explained, "where there is hardly a chance of anyone seeing us because we can keep covered in this winding hollow."

Nessa and I were glad that he had eased up. It would give us a chance to draw him out a bit further.

"We shall need all our spare breath," he remarked during a silence, "for the work we have got to do when we get there."

"What work?" asked Nessa.

"Miners' work," he answered briefly.

Gradually, though, we learned from him quite a lot about the old lead mines and the caverns where the precious Blue John had been found. There was the famous Treak Cliff Cavern, for instance, near the hairpin bend above



John started to swing his miner's pick with all his strength

Castleton. And the even better known Speedwell Cavern.

"You can travel in a boat along some of the old lead miners' tunnels," he said. "The workings were flooded, and now you can sit in a boat, with a few candles to light you, and with a bottomless pit awaiting you at the end of the trip." It all sounded grimly exciting!

"But Bleakshaw is only a little, unimportant mine," he explained carefully more than once. "That is why no one has bothered to open it up after the landslide, I expect."

"What caused the landslide?" I asked.

"A bomb, during the war. Probably from an enemy aircraft that was being chased by one of our own night fighters, and decided to get rid of its load in case it was shot down. Anyway, it certainly did the job all right!"

So, gradually we came nearer and nearer to Bleakshaw.

John was becoming more and more tense with every 100 yards we covered. He seemed now to be removing himself from us.

"We're here!"

Then, suddenly, the track we were now following, a track which I suppose had been beaten out by his feet and nobody else's, narrowed and slanted down between two banks of turf that had steepened into almost vertical walls. More and more rock appeared among the turf; the track became harder beneath our feet; the air seemed to become quite suddenly colder. We felt hemmed in: it was the sort of track from

which, we felt, it was possible that we should never return!

"We're here!" John's voice, a few yards ahead of Nessa and me, was low, almost sinister. We stopped as though we had run into a wall.

Which, in fact, is almost exactly what we had done. For here our track turned at a sharp angle and we found ourselves facing a narrow cleft that divided two masses of dark, forbidding rock. John darted ahead, and thrust his arm into the dark cleft in the rock. When he stepped back, we saw he was holding an iron crowbar, shiny at one end, rusty at the other, as well as a miner's pick.

Like a madman

"See—" he said, turning to us with more excitement on his face than we had seen since we had first met him. He was holding out the pick and the crowbar at arms' length, his whole body quivering with eagerness.

"What are you going to—" Nessa began; but her question was answered before she had finished asking it.

John started at once swinging his miner's pick high above his shoulder and bringing it down with all his strength on the rock. He worked like a madman. No one would have thought that he had just done half a morning's walking, or rather running, across broken country, to see the way he worked. And as for thinking about our well-earned lunch: well...

Chips and jagged fragments of rock flew off as his pick hacked away, and it was only after we had watched him a few minutes that we realised that none of the bits he had dislodged lay about his feet. Nor, come to think of it, had there been any signs of his work as a miner, apart from the marks on the rock cleft, although we knew he had been coming here pretty regularly for quite a long time.

Swallowed up

"Where do you keep the stuff you chip away?" I asked him when at last he straightened up and rested his pick on the ground for a minute, breathing hard.

"Do you swallow it?" Nessa asked, mockingly.

"I don't," he answered. And then, in that husky, mystery-making voice of his, he added: "But—something else does."

For a moment or two I had the absurd picture in my mind of some monster, like a crocodile of enormous size, lying below the point at which he was working, its open jaws swallowing each lump of rock that his pick chipped away.

As though he had answered Nessa's question, he now dropped the pick and took up the crowbar which had been lying behind

Continued on page 11



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ZOO NEWS

WHO WANTS A PAIR OF ANTLERS?

An impressive array of antlers is being assembled at the Zoo's deer-and-cattle sheds. They have been cast in recent months by the various stags in the house, and include those of reindeer, wapiti, and red and spotted deer. Largest are the reindeer antlers, some of which measure over four feet.

Keepers are wondering just what to do with all these redundant antlers. One thing is certain. They will not be thrown away, for there is a demand for them from many sources. Occasionally they are wanted at lectures and meetings of the Zoological Society. Sometimes, too, the Zoo gets a request for a pair for use as "props" in some amateur theatrical performance. And not infrequently visitors ask for a pair for use as household ornaments, or as hatracks for the hall.

Old friends



When Diane O'Grady returned to the Children's Zoo at Regent's Park after three month's absence she was warmly greeted by Paderewski, the Polish bantam.

A pair of wild herons are now visiting the Zoo gardens at frequent intervals. The birds usually fly in soon after dawn and alight in trees at the Three Island Pond enclosure, where the waterfowl are kept.

"Why they go to this enclosure is a mystery, for we have no fish-eating birds there," said a Zoo official. "But there is an attraction, all the same. From their perch in the trees the herons gaze enviously at the pail of shrimps put down for the flamingoes' breakfast, and look as though they would like to sample them."

"So far, they have not actually had the courage to raid this pail. But if they do, a keeper will stand by to ward them off, offering them a fish or two by way of consolation. But we shall be surprised if the herons continue their visits very much longer. Round about this time they usually gather at heronries, prior to nesting."

So many injured pigeons have been brought to the gardens lately

that a large flight cage at the Eastern Aviary has been allocated to them.

"The birds are in fact mostly road casualties which have been hit by cars," an official said. "They are being personally looked after by Mr. A. Gregory, head-keeper of the aviary, who feeds them daily on biscuit meal, maize, and other suitable scraps. All are expected to recover in due course, and when they do so they will be set free."

I have a good report from the Aquarium of the two eight-foot manatees, or sea-cows, brought to the Zoo from British Guiana last summer. Dr. Gwynne Vevers, the curator, tells me he is extremely pleased with the progress of both these aquatic mammals. "Both have put on weight and have become progressively more tame," says Dr. Vevers. "Although both manatees spend most of their time in the water, they now come readily on to the 'foreshore' to take green food from visitors' hands." Incidentally, it has been found that both animals can stay under water for almost six minutes.

SNAKE IN THE CHEST

A large tea-chest just received at the nearby reptile house from Kuala Lumpur has provided keepers with a surprise. On opening it, they found a long-nosed tree-snake. The reptile, four foot long and so thin that it resembles a bright green bootlace, was coiled around two stout twigs which had been firmly fixed in position.

"The snake is the first of its kind we have had for some years," Overseer R. Lanworn tells me, "it is especially interesting because it belongs to a species which, in the Far East, is sometimes used as a 'living table decoration' at dinner parties, being put on plants on the table. After such a party, is sometimes handed to children to play with."

CRAVEN HILL

Stamp News

A **HOUSEWIFE** of Gateshead bought part of a sheet of 6d. stamps and then noticed that there was something wrong with the perforations. Some of the stamps had double rows, while others had none at all. The housewife has now been told that her stamps are worth some £200.

A **STAMP** printed on aluminium foil has been issued by Hungary to mark the 20th anniversary of her aluminium industry. The stamp shows Csepel Island—principal centre of the industry.

THE signature of Heinrich von Stephan, founder of the Universal Postal Union, is given on a new German stamp marking the 125th anniversary of his birth.

A **BRITISH** stamp was sold for £1025 in London recently. It was a King Edward the Seventh 10s. ultramarine bearing the overprint I. R. Official.

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SPORTS SHORTS

BRIAN HEWSON, Britain's famous miler, is due to leave for America next Wednesday to take part in the American indoor national championships, to be held in New York's Madison Square Garden. Brian hopes to be the first Briton to win a title in these championships. Afterwards he will fly to Jamaica to join the small British team who are to compete in the Southern Games at Trinidad on February 25 and 26.

Posthaste

A SWIMMING race with competitors 10,000 miles apart will be held next Monday between the Willesden Swimming Club, Middlesex, and a team in Wanganui, New Zealand. Swimmers in both places will enter the water at the same time and the winners' times will later be compared by post.

ROBBIE ROBINSON, of Priory School, Taunton, is one of the most promising young sportsmen in the West Country. Last summer he captained Somerset Boys XI on the cricket field, and this winter he has led his County's schoolboys' Rugby XV.

Rope trick



Three boys from the Egham County Secondary School in Surrey do their own rope trick during rehearsals for their first public P.T. display.



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Two famous members of the pre-war Arsenal team who both won many honours in the game were Wilf Copping and George Male. Now their sons are beginning to make their name in Soccer. Michael Male plays at right back for Southgate County Grammar School and has also represented Middlesex Grammar Schools. Jack Copping, who represented Essex and London Grammar Schools, has finished his National Service and is now playing for the Bristol City Colts.

JIM FOTHERINGHAM, the 6 foot four inch Arsenal centre-half, is firmly established in this position now, but it is only a few years since he preferred to play at centre-forward. His change of mind—and position—came about when the junior team for which he was playing won 12-0, and Jim did not score one of them!

Antarctic Soccer

CHILEANS are just as keen on Soccer as the British, so when the naval vessel Protector arrived at Pendulum Bay in Deception Island the other day, an "international match" was quickly arranged between players on the ship and members of the Chilean Antarctic naval base. The British team lost 2-1.

THREE members of the Bristol Rovers team which is challenging for promotion from the Second Division, have appeared in over 400 games for the club. They are Roy Warren, Jackie Pitt, and Harry Bamford. Warren and Bamford were born in Bristol and have played for no other League clubs.

TONY LOCK, the Surrey and England left-arm spin bowler, last summer achieved a remarkable hat trick—the last two wickets in Somerset's first innings, and the first in the second innings. He performed a similar hat trick when he dismissed the last batsman in the Amir Bahawalpur's XI, and then, when the Pakistan team followed-on, took the first two wickets with consecutive balls. These are the only hat tricks Tony Lock has ever performed.

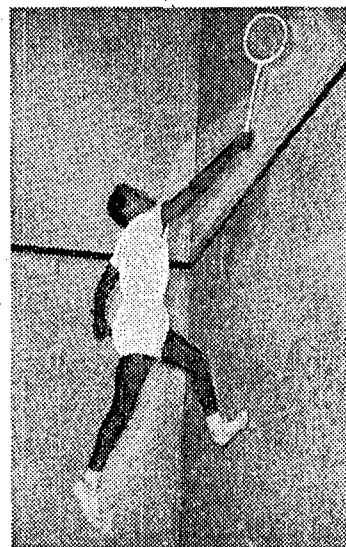
Ali lends a hand

MOHAMMAD ALI is a strong man in a Karachi circus. He is also a masseur. So when the M.C.C. team, who have no official trainer, were in Karachi they were only too glad to take advantage of his offer to help them to maintain fitness. And when they moved on to Hyderabad, Mohammad Ali was asked to go with the team.

THE name Brittain is well known in motor cycling circles in the Midlands. Vic Brittain earned a great reputation in trials riding and his own trophy is awarded for annual competition in Wolverhampton. Last year his son John Brittain narrowly missed winning the trophy. A few weeks ago John was again runner-up, but this time the award went to brother Pat, who beat John by a mere two points.

For many years A.B.A. and "England" teams competing in international boxing contests have often included Welsh boxers. But Wales has now become affiliated to the International Federation and in future will be able to compete on an equal footing in international bouts with England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Up the wall



Brian Boys, the Australian squash champion, leaps for a high ball.

THE Rugby XV's of Wales and Scotland clash on Saturday at Cardiff Arms Park, home of Welsh Rugby. The countries first met in 1883, since when Wales has won 30 games, Scotland 27, and two have been drawn.

Sports stadium for the Bantus

JOHANNESBURG is to have a fine sports stadium for the Bantu people. Building will shortly commence, and the plans for the stadium provide for a cycle track, football pitches, children's playgrounds, and facilities for boxing, dramatic performances, and dancing.

The Bantu people of Johannesburg have nearly 400 football teams (the most popular sport of all); scores of cycling clubs; boxing teams (who use portable rings); and tennis players who eagerly crowd on to whatever courts are available.

GORDON CROSBY is only five feet tall, but he is making quite a name for himself in schoolboy Soccer circles. He is one of five members of the Featherstone Secondary Modern School who have been playing for Southall Boys this season, and he has also been chosen for the international schoolboys' trial match at Slough in a few weeks' time.

BILLY WRIGHT, captain of England and Wolverhampton Wanderers, has been one of the greatest half-backs in the game for some years, and now another Wright is coming to the fore. This is Billy's 17-year-old brother, Lawrence, who is an amateur with the Wolves and recently played for the English National Association of Boys' Clubs against Wales.

THE BLUE JOHN SECRET

Continued from page 9

him. He raised it and jammed it with all his force into a crack in the rock that he had made with the sharp end of his pick.

Then he braced his shoulders and levered at it, first to one side, then to the other, and suddenly a long, narrow fragment scaled off the rock and hung for a moment with little bits flaking off it. He jabbed the crowbar into the widened gap, grunted something about wishing he had a few sticks of gelignite, and gave a final, terrific heave.

"Ah!" he growled, "Got you!"

The whole fragment, two or three feet long and several inches thick, had come loose. He tapped its upper end free, and suddenly it began to slide downwards, gathering speed all the time—and vanished into the darkness just in front of his feet.

"See—" he said, turning triumphantly to us. "Swallowed up!"

Underground stream

We peered forward into the crack he was about to work on some more. It was pitch dark, though, inside, because we were blocking out the little bit of light that came off the moor.

"I can't see anything," I said.

"Listen," said John.

And, listening intently, we heard it: the unmistakable sound of running or falling water far, far beneath where we were standing.

"That is my chief clue," he

went on. "An underground stream. A waterfall, too, probably. It's marked on the map."

"I didn't see it," Nessa said.

"It won't be on your map," he answered. "But I've seen a much older one. Dad has got several of them. They are the maps the old lead miners used, and they show what goes on beneath the ground. When the miners tapped an underground stream, or a waterfall, they marked it in. Sometimes they could divert the water; sometimes it was too strong for them. That's why the Speedwell Mine has got flooded."

"Why is it a clue, though?" Nessa asked.

Treasure!

"Because," John answered, "the map shows that no water flows out of the original entrance to this cavern—the one that was blocked up by the landslide. Instead, it flows out this way. And I believe that if I can work my way in, the way the water goes out, I'll have got into Bleakshaw Cavern by the unknown back entrance. See?"

For a moment or two there was complete silence. Then: "What are we waiting for?" I said, catching his excitement. "Let's get cracking!" And with that, I snatched up the miner's pick and had my first swing at that doorpost of solid rock behind which, if what Daft Sammy had told John was true, lay the Blue John Secret!

To be continued

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THE BRAN TUB

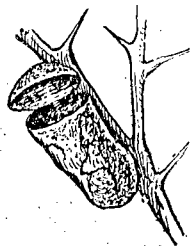
FORESIGHT

DAD: "What are you going to do for a living, my boy?"

Son: "I'm going to be a fortune-teller, Dad. There's a great future in it."

SPOT THE . . .

COCOON OF THE HAWTHORN SAW-FLY, firmly cemented to a hawthorn twig. It is nearly an inch long and pale brown in colour.



When the caterpillar of this species has finished feeding, it weaves a cocoon of silk and varnishes it, creating a snug home capable of enduring the rigours of winter.

Before a saw-fly emerges from its chrysalis, a rasping noise can be heard as it cuts its way out of the hard substance.

There are many kinds of saw-flies. Their name is due to the fact that each female is equipped with a set of tiny saws at the tail end of her body. With these she can cut grooves in twigs in which to lay her eggs.

NAME THE RIVERS

The following five clues indicate the names of British rivers. Can you name them?

A BIRD of peace; associated with the Ashes; woollen cloth; this rhymes with tea; think of a number and add R.

Answers in column 5

BEDTIME TALE

BED AND BREAKFAST

SUSAN loved the wild birds that came to her garden. Every morning in the winter she put out crumbs on the bird-table. Then she threaded monkey-nuts and bits of fat on string which she hung from the bird-table for her favourite birds—the tomtits.

When the weather grew colder and the ponds froze, Susan put a big bowl of water in the garden every day so that the birds could bathe and drink.

One day when snowflakes were falling gently Susan saw a small bird sheltering in a bush. It looked so miserable that Susan decided to make nests of ivy, and put them in the garden.

"Then," thought Susan, "the birds will shelter in the nests when it is cold."

Daddy saw Susan standing on tiptoe as she tried to fix an ivy nest in the fork of the apple tree.



"What are you doing, Susan?" asked Daddy.

"Putting up a sleeping-nest for the birds," explained Susan. "They can shelter in it from the cold, too."

Daddy understood at once, and then he had a better idea.

"I could make nesting-boxes for your birds," he said. "Perhaps they would go inside to shelter and sleep."

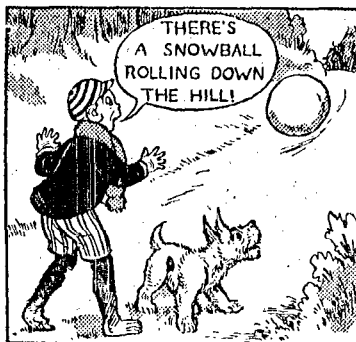
The nesting-boxes that Daddy made looked like tiny houses with little round holes for doors, just big enough for a tiny bird to slip through. Susan and Daddy fixed

one in the apple tree, and one on the old pine tree.

Early next morning Susan saw a tomtit fly from the nesting-box to breakfast on the suet hanging from the bird-table.

So, Susan provided bed and breakfast for her birds.

JACKO IS CHASED HOME—BY A LIVELY SNOWBALL



SHAKY

THE youngsters were discussing their camping trips. Said one: "What would you do if a bear came after you while you were out in the woods?"

"I'd climb a tree," said the boy across the table.

"But bears can climb trees, too," chimed in another boy.

"Not this tree," returned the other, "it would be shaking too much."

POTTED PERSONALITY

The words in italics in the paragraph below can be rearranged to form the name of a famous British statesman. Who is he?

SAID the farmer: "I do not deny that squirrels and rabbits are attractive creatures, but they are great pests, and one is little better than the other."

Answer in column 5

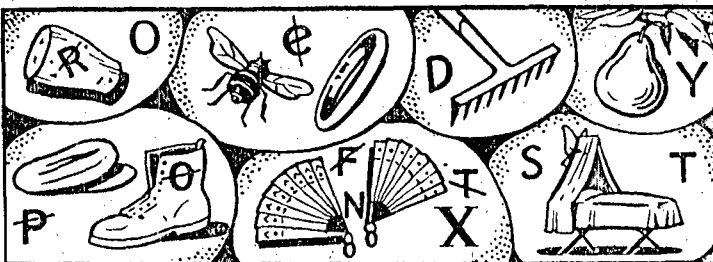
HOWLER

A BLIZZARD helps a chicken digest its food.

FIND THE EXPLORERS

THE names of seven explorers are represented here. Who are they?

Answers in column 5



UNDENIABLY TRUE

TEACHER: "Johnny, can you tell me one use for cow hide?"

Johnny: "Yes, sir. It holds the cow together."

CANDLEMAS BELLS

CANDLEMAS is a church feast which falls on February 2. It is held to commemorate the presentation of Christ in the temple and also in honour of the Purification of the Virgin Mary. The name comes from the great number of candles which used to be lighted.

It is at this season that the fragile snowdrops appear, and in many parts of the country they are known as Candlemas Bells or Mary's Tapers.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

NAME four needles you cannot thread.

What wood is commonly used for tool handles?

How many wavy lines does the Post Office use in franking letters?

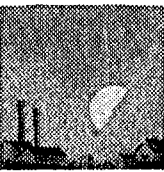
What total do the figures round a clock make?

How many pennies, in a straight line, measure a foot?

Answers in column 5

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west and Jupiter is low in the east. In the morning Mars and Saturn are in the south-east and Jupiter is in the south-west. The picture shows the

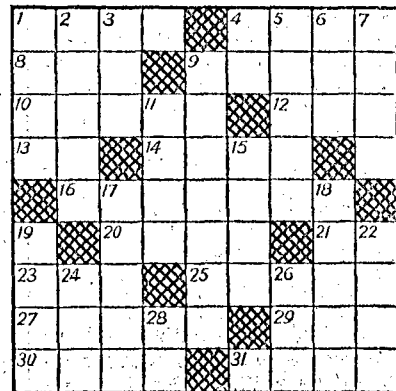


Moon as it will appear at seven o'clock on the morning of Friday, February 3.

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS: 1 Amphibious mammal. 4 Cakes often are this. 8 Tree. 9 Safer. 10 Its leaf is the emblem of Canada. 12 Bore. 13 Inside. 14 Unit. 16 Gives. 20 Body's tube that carries blood. 21 Morning. 23 Anger. 25 Large spoon. 27 Entices. 29 Collection. 30 Birds' home. 31 Misplace.

READING DOWN: 1 Half. 2 South African antelope. 3 Unit of current. 4 That is. 5 Climate. 6 Listen with it. 7 Ditch. 9 Particulars. 11 Row. 15 Volcano. 17 No runs are scored off maiden. 18 January is the time for these. 19 Oven. 22 Portion out. 24 Regret. 26 Distinguished Service Order. 28 French for and.



Answer next week

JUNGLE JINGLE

A SMART-LOOKING creature the cheetah.

Few animals ever look neater.

He can out-run a deer,

Which would make it appear,

There are very few animals fleet.

TONGUE TWISTER

SAY three times, quickly: Brian Brown borrowed a book and brewed a beverage to banish boredom.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ CORNER

1. Pup, (seal); calf, (elephant); leveret, (hare).
2. A hard substance of varying colour formed out of the line in the sea by marine creatures, called polyps.
3. 20 in our first set, 32 in our second set.
4. Orville Wright, on December 17, 1903.
5. 39.37 inches.
6. The Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

BRAN TUB ANSWERS

Name the rivers. Dove, Test, Tweed, Lea, Severn.
Find the explorers. Cook, Bering, Drake, Peary, Cabot, Nansen, Scott.
Potted personality. (Sir) Anthony Eden.
Test your knowledge. Pine, knitting, gramophone, Cleopatra's; beech; 7; 78; 10.

You can win

FREE CADBURY CHOCOLATE

for a whole year

IN THIS CROSSWORD COMPETITION

ACROSS:

DOWN:

When you have solved the crossword, cut it out (round the dotted line), and send it, together with your name, age and address and any Cadbury label, in a sealed envelope (2d stamp), to 'Crossword', CADBURYS, Dept. 23, BOURNVILLE, BIRMINGHAM, by February 29th. Prizes of a whole year's supply of Cadbury Chocolate will be awarded for the fifty nearest correct entries marked on that date. This competition is open only to children under 16 living in Gt. Britain or N. Ireland.

WATCH OUT next month for Cadbury Corner and another exciting competition

A FREE GAME—FOR THREE STAMPS

SAVE THIS STAMP—it's one of a set of three. When you have the complete set, send it to Cadburys who will present you with a free game in return. More details in next month's Cadbury Corner.